

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as shown below, in which deletions are indicated by strikethrough and/or double brackets, and additions are indicated by underscoring. Please add new claims 17 -20. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Claim 1 (currently amended). A conduit-supporting structure for a small vessel body comprising a hull and a deck for covering placement on top of the hull, with an interior space defined between the hull and the deck thereof;

said conduit-supporting structure comprising a floatation insert block for placement inside the vessel body interior space between the hull and the deck; wherein said floatation insert block is made with a support groove formed therein for supportively receiving at least one conduit, said support groove being open on one side thereof to permit insertion or removal of said conduit.

Claim 2 (original). The conduit-supporting structure of claim 1, wherein the floatation insert block is formed from a resilient plastic foam material.

Claim 3 (original). The conduit-supporting structure of claim 1, wherein the floatation insert block is formed from a buoyant material.

Claim 4 (currently amended). The conduit-supporting structure of claim 1, wherein the floatation insert block is constructed and arranged to fit the contours of the interior space within the ~~watercraft~~ small vessel body.

Claim 5 (original). The conduit-supporting structure of claim 1, wherein the support groove is adapted to supportively receive a pipe therein.

Claim 6 (original) The conduit-supporting structure of claim 1, wherein the support groove is adapted to supportively receive a wire therein.

Claim 7 (original). The conduit-supporting structure of claim 1, wherein the support groove is adapted to supportively receive a cable therein.

Claim 8 (currently amended). The conduit-supporting structure of claim 1, wherein said floatation insert block is constructed and arranged to fit nestingly in a selected part of said interior space of said ~~watercraft~~ small vessel body.

Claim 9 (original). A floatation insert block for placement in an interior space of a small watercraft between a hull and a deck of said watercraft, said floatation insert block comprising a main block body formed from a flexibly resilient plastic foam material, said main block body having a support groove formed therein for supportively receiving at least one conduit, said support groove being open on one side thereof to permit insertion or removal of said conduit.

Claim 10 (original). The floatation insert block of claim 9, wherein the floatation insert block is constructed and arranged to fit nestingly in a selected part of said interior space of said watercraft.

Claim 11 (original). The floatation insert block of claim 9, wherein the floatation insert block is formed from a buoyant material.

Claim 12 (original). The floatation insert block of claim 9, wherein the support groove is adapted to supportively receive a pipe therein.

Claim 13 (original). The floatation insert block of claim 9, wherein the support groove is adapted to supportively receive a wire therein.

Claim 14 (original). The floatation insert block of claim 9, wherein the support groove is adapted to supportively receive a cable therein.

Claim 15 (currently amended). A small watercraft comprising a hull and a deck for covering placement on top of the hull, with an interior space defined between the hull and the deck thereof, said watercraft having a plurality of the floatation insert blocks of claim 9 installed in said interior space.

Claim 16 (original). The watercraft of claim 15, wherein the floatation insert blocks are formed from a buoyant material.

Claim 17 (new). A conduit-supporting structure for a small vessel body,
said conduit-supporting structure comprising a floatation insert block for placement inside an interior space of the vessel body;
wherein said floatation insert block is made with a support groove formed therein for supportively receiving at least one conduit, said support groove being open on one side thereof to permit insertion or removal of said conduit, and wherein the support groove is formed in a portion of an exterior surface of the floatation insert block..

Claim 18 (new). The insert block of claim 9, wherein the block is configured to be spaced away from an inner hull wall of said watercraft in an installed configuration thereof.

Claim 19 (new). The insert block of claim 9, wherein a portion of said groove has a tapered cross-section which is wider near the open portion thereof, and narrower at the innermost portion thereof.

Claim 20 (new). The watercraft of claim 15, wherein at least some of said floatation insert blocks are spaced away from an inner hull wall of said watercraft.